

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the Pre-Brief Conference request on 04/028/2010.
2. Claims 1-4 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-4 are pending for consideration.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, filed on 03/04/2010, with respect to claims 1-4 have been fully considered and found persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-4 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Allison M. Tulino on 08/26/2010.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended as follows:

Claim 1: A peripheral device for a programmable logic controller, the peripheral device comprising:

an inputting means for inputting peripheral device authentication data being the same as authentication data stored in a storage means of the programmable logic controller;

an encryption means for encrypting the peripheral device authentication data used in authentication for authorizing use of the peripheral device itself, encrypting data used in the programmable logic controller, and encrypting authentication data that is established in the programmable logic controller ~~and that~~, the authentication data verifies whether or not communication with the programmable logic controller is authorized for the data used in the programmable logic controller;

an external storage means for storing at least peripheral device authentication data having been encrypted;

an internal storage means for storing at least peripheral device authentication data having been encrypted; a decryption means for decrypting the peripheral device authentication data, the data used in the programmable logic controller, and the authentication data; and

a verification means for determining whether or not use of the peripheral device is authorized, by checking peripheral device authentication data read out from the external storage means and decrypted, against peripheral device authentication data read out from the internal storage means and decrypted.

Claim 3: A peripheral device for a programmable logic controller, the peripheral device comprising:

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an input unit that enables a user to input peripheral device authentication data being the same as authentication data stored in a storage unit of the programmable logic controller;

an encrypter that encrypts the peripheral device authentication data used in authentication for authorizing use of the peripheral device itself, encrypts data used in the programmable logic controller, and encrypts authentication data that is established in the programmable logic controller ~~and that~~, the authentication data verifies whether or not communication with the programmable logic controller is authorized for the data used in the programmable logic controller;

an external storage that stores at least peripheral device authentication data having been encrypted;

an internal storage that stores at least peripheral device authentication data having been encrypted;

a decrypter that decrypts the peripheral device authentication data, the data used in the programmable logic controller, and the authentication data; and

a verifier that determines whether or not use of the peripheral device is authorized, by checking peripheral device authentication data read out from the external storage and decrypted, against peripheral device authentication data read out from the internal storage and decrypted.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-4 are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As noted above, the Examiner agrees with the Applicant's arguments on pages 2-4 of the Pre-Brief Conference request. Thus, the prior art does not teach "a peripheral device for a programmable logic controller, the peripheral device comprising:

an inputting means for inputting peripheral device authentication data being the same as authentication data stored in a storage means of the programmable logic controller;

an encryption means for encrypting the peripheral device authentication data used in authentication for authorizing use of the peripheral device itself, encrypting data used in the programmable logic controller, and encrypting authentication data that is established in the programmable logic controller, the authentication data verifies whether or not communication with the programmable logic controller is authorized for the data used in the programmable logic controller;

an external storage means for storing at least peripheral device authentication data having been encrypted;

an internal storage means for storing at least peripheral device authentication data having been encrypted; a decryption means for decrypting the peripheral device authentication data, the data used in the programmable logic controller, and the authentication data; and

a verification means for determining whether or not use of the peripheral device is authorized, by checking peripheral device authentication data read out from the external storage means and decrypted, against peripheral device authentication data read out from the internal storage means and decrypted”.

The Examiner was unable to find a teaching, suggestion, or motivation that would render the above limitations obvious. Claims 1-4 are, therefore, novel and not obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TRANG DOAN whose telephone number is (571)272-0740. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Trang Doan/

Examiner, Art Unit 2431

/Syed Zia/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2431